6th September 1928] [Mr. D. Narayana Raju]

of the village stating that the establishment of the forest panchayat did not in any way mitigate their hardships. If these panchayats are given jurisdiction to try forest offences, there will be some scope for improvement. So long as the officers of the department are invested with powers to try these alleged offenders there is no scope for improvement. If the hon. the Law Member means business he must bring forward a Bill to that end; there is no good of making rules in a matter of this kind. With these remarks I support the resolution and I hope the House would pass it."

Rajkumar S. N. Dorai Raja :—" I move that the question be put."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" I second it."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—" Madam, the hon. Law Member having consented to frame a scheme, he has practically given out his case, namely that the ryots on whose behalf we are now speaking have not got much grievances. I do not want to detail the many hardships which the ryots are suffering from in the various parts of the Presidency. But in my district, a certain class of people called the *Sugathis* who are tending the cattle on behalf of the ryots are charged extra, because they are supposed to be doing it for their own profit. It works as a hardship not only for the *Sugathis* but also for ryots whose cattle these people are tending.

" At the same time I recognize also the difficulties to which the Government is put. A way must be found to redress the grievances of the ryots without putting undue difficulties in the path of the Government, if the Government is really for the benefit of the people at large. As a matter of fact the forest subordinate officer is a tyrant in his own way. I know that in forest districts the police is not so much a terror as the forest officers. Now, Sir, there are many questions which only a committee can go into, the sympathetic Law Member may frame a scheme in order to afford some relief to the suffering ryots; but after all that will be a scheme that is prepared on materials collected in the Secretariat. This question has never been gone into in a detailed form. The present forest policy of the Government is an antiquated one and needs change. For instance there is the question of the economic working of our forests, besides the question of the redress of so many grievances. A time has come for a detailed investigation of the matter. The hon. the Law Member having conceded the existence of grievances, I hope, will go to the extent of accepting the resolution, which merely asks for the appointment of a committee to go into the whole question and make recommendations for the Government to accept or reject. It is not enough if the hon. the Law Member alone is to prepare a scheme."

Rajkumar S. N. Dorai Raja :—" I move that the question be now put.".

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" I second it."

The closure motion was put to the House and carried: the resolution was then put to the House and carried.

FEES RECEIVED FROM PAYING PATIENTS IN STATE HOSPITALS.

In the absence of the Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri against whose name the resolution stood, Mr. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar was given leave by the House to move the following resolution :

[6th September 1928

Mr. C. S. GOVINDARAJA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I move—

'*That this Council recommends to the Government that all fees received from patients in State hospitals be credited in full to the Government.*'

" Sir, many words are not necessary to commend this resolution to the acceptance of the House. It stands to reason that the fees collected in the institution should go to the institution itself. The medical officers are full time officers and they have also got the privilege of private practice. I don't see why they should extend their private practice to the official hours also. Already reference has been made to the evil of the chit system. In order to obviate evils like it a rule must be made to the effect that all fees that are earned by the Government institutions through its officers and by the use of the appliances of the Government must be credited to Government. I hope that the resolution will be accepted by the Government."

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—" I second it."

* Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" Madam, in supporting the motion, I wish to say that it is a pernicious system to allow the fees received in Government hospitals to be distributed among the officers of the hospital and the system ought to be put an end to at the earliest opportunity. The Government officers are highly paid by the Government and they have to attend to the patients who seek relief at their hands. If any fees are levied, the amount should go to the Government. Instead of that a portion goes to the officers who are already enormously paid by the Government. No such system prevails in any other department of the Government whether run on a commercial basis or not. Why should the hospitals be an exception ?

" Madam, already in the Government hospitals, the patients are made to pay some fees, As. 2 in the out-patient department for each patient. Even this small sum is felt to be heavy by many people. Of course, people who can afford to pay go to private doctors and only poor people go to the State hospitals and even they are made to pay. Why not divide such fees between the doctors and the Government? It is high time that Government put an end to this system and see that all the fees levied either in the X-Ray department or in any other department are credited to the Government in full. If the Government cannot make a rule like that, let them abolish all fees to every patient who goes to these hospitals, and let State hospitals fulfil the function for which they are really meant."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I think it will be useful if I speak a few words on the practice that is prevailing at present. The resolution refers only to the practice that obtains in one portion of the General Hospital. The rule at present is that all patients getting an income of Rs. 50 and over should pay and these patients are accommodated in the general wards. When they make their payments the amount is credited to the Government and it does not go to the doctors. But there is a portion of the hospital called the special paying wards and it is there that the practice obtains. I do not know whether the arrangement has been changed. A claim was put forward that the fees received from patients in the *special paying wards* should be divided between Government and the doctors. Well, if that has not been done I do not know to what this resolution refers. As far as I know the fees received from patients in the general wards are

6th September 1928] [Mr. R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar]

credited to Government. If the old rule of crediting to the Government all the receipts from the *special paying wards* has since been abandoned, I should support the resolution so far as the special paying wards are concerned."

* The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—" Madam, President, 1-15 p.m. Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar has exactly stated the case as it is at present. There has been no alteration whatever and no part of the fees paid to the special ward is paid to the doctors there. Of course, there has been some agitation going on for some time past and it has been finally decided that they shall not be entitled to any fees. The hon. Member who moved the proposition and the hon. Member who seconded it and the hon. Member who followed it have not been able to give any data as to where they found this payment made. Of course, as I said yesterday in reply to a question, there is the X-Ray department alone. It is in that department, in certain cases a portion of the fee is paid to the doctors and the staff in charge there. In the case of in-patients or out-patients attending the hospital, no fee is levied. (Dr. B. S. Mallayya: Fee is levied.) If they are regular patients, no fee is levied. But if a private patient sent by a private practitioner comes there for X-Ray examination, a fee is taken from him, and that is divided between the Government and the staff of the X-Ray institute because they are not really patients of the hospital. Because Government materials are utilized for the purpose of treating the patient we take certain fee, 25 per cent of which is credited to Government 75 per cent going to the doctor and staff. This is the practice. When a patient comes to the X-Ray institute directly, then the fee is divided between the Government and the doctor in the ratio of 50 per cent each. These are cases of private practice. If any hon. Member thinks that there is need to revise it, it may be open to revision. But this is the only instance where fees received in the hospital are paid to practitioners in some proportion."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—" I am glad the hon. the Minister for Public Health has made a frank statement about the state of affairs existing in the X-Ray ward of the General Hospital. In the General Hospital at present, the total collections amount to Rs. 40,000 from paying patients and they are credited *en bloc* to the Government. Nothing is wrong there. But when we come to the X-Ray department, the hon. Minister says that fees are received only from private patients. Who are those private patients? He says patients sent by private practitioners. Madam, Deputy President, you may be fully aware of the hardship of this rule, of the injustice of it. A man goes to a commissioned medical officer, pays him Rs. 15 and gets a chit to be treated in the X-Ray ward; certain fee is collected from him of which 75 per cent goes to the radiologist. The radiologist is a full-timed man; he is paid by Government for doing his work in the hospital. If I am to tell you the fact, he is not doing any work, it is the staff that is doing all the work. His assistants are doing the work; they take the skiagram and develop it. If I say that a person went there and paid a cheque for Rs. 200, the Minister says, 'No, no, he never went there as a private case.' He had the cheek to say it. (The hon. Minister for Public Health rose to explain, but in the midst of cries of order, order from the Swarajists he could not speak and sat down.)

" I am giving facts for the information of the House. Again, the Minister said in some cases 50 per cent is credited to the hospital and 50 per cent is paid to the surgeon. From the figures given yesterday, I proved to him that out of Rs. 64,775 collected, only Rs. 16,000 was credited to Government. The

[Dr. B. S. Mallayya] [6th September 1928

balance was taken by the staff. Why should that amount go to them? If it is for Madras to-day, it is for the mufassal to-morrow. You have got an X-Ray Institute at Madura, you are starting one at Rayapuram, and the same practice will obtain there also. The radiologist is already paid Rs. 1,300 and odd and he is given a risk allowance for doing no work. He sits there in a room and the work is done by Indians, the subordinates there."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"What is risk allowance?"

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"A provision for drawing more money. My friend Dr. Govindarajulu was there for 30 years and he is still going strong. Here is a man who is not a medical man as stated openly by the Minister yesterday. If he is not a medical man how is he eligible for medical practice. Are you allowing compounders private practice? Are you allowing private practice to the nurses in the hospital? Are you allowing private practice to the hospital carpenters? So I appeal to the House to accept this motion so that Government may be benefited and there may be no chance for the fleecing of the public on these flimsy pretexts."

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—The hon. Member is requested to address the Chair."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"There is no necessity for addressing you, Madam, Deputy President, as you know everything that happens in the hospital. I am more inclined to rub the thing into the Minister and bring him to my view."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"I am surprised at the speech of the hon. Member for Madras. The figures were given, and I said that in certain cases 25 per cent is given to the radiologist and in certain cases 50 per cent. (Dr. Mallayya: Question.) The hon. Member is entirely wrong in stating that in all cases 75 per cent is taken away by him and only 25 per cent is given to Government. In certain cases 25 per cent is given to Government and in certain other cases 50 per cent. (Dr. Mallayya: Prove it by figures.) The impression is apt to be created that in the hospitals some portion of the fees was taken by the Government servants working in the hospitals. Now, fortunately for me, I don't think the hon. Member will question it now, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar had said that it obtained nowhere except as regards the X-Ray Institute."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU:—"I move that the question be now put."

* The hon. DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"Not when the hon. the Minister is on his legs."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"I rise to a point of order."

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Minister is going on with his speech. If the hon. Member has anything to say he may do it after the Minister finishes his speech."

* The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"Unfortunately, there have been many interruptions. I am afraid I shall have to start the whole thing again. What I am saying is that in no hospital in the Province, except in the X-Ray Institute, is this practice of dividing the fees going on between the Government and the practitioners employed there. It is only in that department this practice was started, because there were no other X-Ray people at that time except, perhaps, Doctor Sankaranarayana Pillai. The hon. Member now says there are other people doing it cheaper too. That may be. If there are other people and the work done by them is as good and cheaper

6th September 1928] [Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar]

and the patients are satisfied, I really do not see why people should pay the higher fee at the General Hospital. But if the patients think that it is worth while to pay the higher fee and go to the General Hospital, they go there not as patients of the hospital but as patients who want to secure the services of the radiologist, who treats them not in his capacity as Government servant but as a person allowed to practice like any other practitioner, and he does the work in the premises of the hospital because it would be difficult for him to carry the necessary outfit outside the hospital. It is really his practice. (Mr. Harisarvottama Rao:—No student of logic will understand this.) (The hon. Mr. Muthiah Mudaliyar:—I am unable to teach logic here.) It is really not part of the fees received by the Government hospitals that is being given to him. Government thought that it was really private practice in which Government materials were used. They thought that in certain cases 25 per cent was a reasonable fee and 50 per cent reasonable in other cases.

"If the idea of the hon. Members of this House is that it is a high percentage or that there ought to be a revision of these things, I may say that I do agree that the matter does require reconsideration. It may be that what obtained and what was considered proper 15 or 20 years ago may not be altogether proper now. These are things which do require consideration. And, as I said already these matters require reconsideration. If hon. Members want it, it will be reconsidered. But if hon. Members insist upon saying that everything that is being done is wrong, I cannot agree. If the proposition is that the matter should be considered, the Government are willing to consider it." 1-30 p.m.

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"It being 1-30 p.m. . . . (Cries of 'Closure' from the Opposition benches.) Is it agreed that closure may be applied now? (After a pause.) I will put the closure motion to the House."

The resolution for closure was put and carried.

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"The question before the House is this:

'That this Council recommends to the Government that all fees received from paying patients in State hospitals be credited in full to the Government.'

The resolution was put and carried.

The following resolution which stood in the name of Mr. S. Subrahmanya Moopanar, was deemed to have been withdrawn, as the Member was not in his seat:—

'This Council recommends to the Government that the appointment of all the Honorary Magistrates shall be by election and not by nomination as at present.'

The House then adjourned for lunch.

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.)

V

ADJOURNMENT MOTION *re* DEATHS UNDER CHLOROFORM IN THE GENERAL HOSPITAL

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The House will now take up the adjournment motion of Dr. Mallayya."